Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of identifying at least one exceptional managed computer ~~system~~ amongst a set of comparable managed computers ~~systems, each managed computer system having a number of system configuration attributes~~, the method comprising:

selecting ~~a set of~~ managed computers with each of the managed computers having a plurality of system configuration attributes ~~systems~~;

selecting ~~a set of~~ parameterizations relating to one or more settings of the system configuration attributes of the managed computers ~~systems~~;

determining ~~a pattern~~ patterns that characterize ~~for each of~~ the parameterizations and the system configuration attributes that are common among a set of the managed computers that are comparable ~~based on the system configuration attributes~~;

comparing substantially each of the managed computers ~~systems~~ to substantially each of the patterns; and

identifying, based on the comparing, at least one exceptionally managed computer that has a parameterization that deviates from the parameterizations of the set of the managed computers that are comparable ~~isolating a managed system based on the comparing~~;

wherein the patterns are determined by a supervised machine learning algorithm.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the managed computers are servers ~~systems are computer systems~~.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the system configuration attributes include at least one of the following:

operating system patches;

active processes;

installed application software programs;

memory configuration; and

peripheral devices.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the patterns are used to find managed computers with deviations from the parameterizations and the system configuration attributes that are common among the set of the managed computers that are comparable. ~~selecting of the set of managed systems includes classification of the systems in accordance with a system attribute.~~

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the patterns formulate predictions about the system configuration attributes that are common among the set of the managed computers that are comparable. ~~further comprising allocating a resource to any system that has been isolated.~~

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~set of~~ parameterizations relate ~~includes at least one parameterization relating~~ to operating system patches.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein the system configuration attributes relate to hardware and software on the managed computers. ~~set of parameterizations includes at least one parameterization relating to operating patches and the step of allocating a resource to the system includes an analysis of whether at least one operating patch should be installed or removed from a system.~~

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising looking for a pattern in the parameterizations and the system configuration attributes to determine if one of the managed computers deviates from the pattern and hence requires an operating system patch. ~~assigning a priority value to an isolated system.~~

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the system configuration attributes include make or model of the managed computers, operating

system installed on the managed computers, and applications installed on the managed computers. ~~8, further comprising compiling a list of isolated systems and ordering the isolated systems in accordance with their priority values.~~

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the supervised machine learning algorithm identifies similarities between the settings of the system configuration attributes and describes the similarities as the patterns. ~~8, further comprising allocating a resource in accordance with priority values.~~

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the supervised machine learning algorithm generates the patterns to predict common system configuration attributes and find a managed computer that is an exception to the patterns. ~~is a rule learning algorithm.~~

12. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising annotating an isolated system with a measure indicative of the results of the comparing, wherein the measure is based on at least one of the following:

an extent of deviation from a pattern;
a degree of support for a pattern;
a confidence level of a pattern;
an assessment of the significance of a pattern; or
a cumulative number of patterns from which the system deviates.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising compiling a list of isolated systems ordered in accordance with said measures.

14. (currently amended) A system for isolating ~~identifying~~ exceptional managed computers ~~systems~~ amongst comparable managed computers ~~systems, each manage system having a number of system configuration attributes~~, the system comprising:

a selection component that selects ~~a set of~~ managed computers having configuration attributes and parameterizations that represent constraints for the configuration attributes ~~systems~~;

a supervised machine learning algorithm that determines patterns in the ~~for a set of~~ parameterizations, the patterns characterizing the parameterizations and the configuration attributes that are common among a set of the managed computers that are comparable ~~representing constraints on the system configuration attributes for the selected set of managed systems~~;

a comparison component that compares the managed computers ~~systems~~ to the patterns; and

an isolating component that isolates exceptionally managed computers ~~the managed systems~~ that deviate from the patterns that characterize the set of the managed computers that are comparable ~~as exceptional managed systems~~.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the configuration attributes relate to hardware and software on the managed computers. ~~selection component classifies the set of managed systems in accordance with a system attribute.~~

16. (currently amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein the configuration attributes include attributes of the managed computers that do not change over a lifetime of the managed computers. ~~further comprising an allocation component that allocates a resource to the systems that have been isolated.~~

17. (currently amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein the ~~set of~~ parameterizations relate ~~includes at least one parameterization relating~~ to operating system patches.

18. (currently amended) The system according to claim 14 ~~16~~, wherein the patterns are used to find managed computers that have software with deviations from the set of managed computers that are comparable. ~~set of parameterizations includes at least one parameterization relating to operating patches and the allocation component conducts an~~

~~analysis of whether at least one operating patch should be installed or removed from a system.~~

19. (original) The system according to claim 14, further comprising a prioritization component that assigns priority values to the isolated systems, compiles a list of isolated systems, and orders the isolated systems in accordance with their priority values.

20. (currently amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein the supervised machine learning algorithm generates the patterns to predict parameterizations that are common to the managed computers and find a managed computer that is an exception to the patterns. ~~is a rule learning algorithm.~~

21. (currently amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein the managed computers are computers in an organization. ~~further comprising an annotation component that annotates the isolated systems with a measure that indicates the extent to which each isolated system deviates from the patterns.~~

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) Computer data storage media having programmed thereon computer software which performs the following functions:

selecting ~~a set of~~ managed computers with each of the managed computers having a plurality of system configuration attributes ~~systems, each managed system having a number of system configuration attributes~~;

selecting ~~a set of~~ parameterizations that are ~~relating to~~ settings of the system configuration attributes of the managed computers ~~systems~~;

determining ~~a~~ patterns that characterize ~~for each of~~ the parameterizations and the system configuration attributes that are common among a set of the managed computers ~~based on the system configuration attributes~~;

comparing the managed computers to the patterns; and

identifying, based on the comparing, an exceptionally managed computer that has a parameterization that deviates from the parameterizations of the set of the managed computers,

~~comparing substantially each of the managed systems to substantially each of the patterns; and~~

~~isolating an exceptional managed system based on the comparing;~~

wherein the patterns are determined by a supervised machine learning algorithm.